

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A filter material comprising a blend of (a) polypropylene fibers with measurable
2 amounts of at least one extractable agent on outer surfaces thereof, and (b) fibers of a
3 second type selected from a group consisting of acrylic and modacrylic.

- 1 2. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the measurable amount of said
2 at least one extractable agent is less than about 0.1 weight percent.

- 1 3. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the blend contains
2 polypropylene fibers and the second type of fibers in a ratio between about 10:90 and
3 about 90:10.

1 4. The filter material in accordance with claim 3, wherein the blend contains
2 polypropylene fibers and the second type of fibers in a ratio between about 20:80 and
3 about 80:20.

1 5. The filter material in accordance with claim 4, wherein the blend contains
2 polypropylene fibers and the second type of fibers in a ratio between about 30:70 and
3 about 70:30.

1 6. The filter material in accordance with claim 5, wherein the blend contains
2 polypropylene fibers and the second type of fibers in a ratio between about 40:60 and
3 about 60:40.

1 7. The filter material in accordance with claim 6, wherein the blend contains
2 polypropylene fibers and the second type of fibers in a ratio between about 45:55 and
3 about 55:45.

1 8. The filter material in accordance with claim 7, wherein the blend comprises about 50
2 weight percent polypropylene fibers and about 50 weight percent of the second type of
3 fibers.

1 9. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the blend contains
2 polypropylene fibers and acrylic fibers in a ratio between about 20:80 and about 80:20.

1 10. The filter material in accordance with claim 9, wherein the blend contains
2 polypropylene fibers and acrylic fibers in a ratio between about 30:70 and about 70:30.

1 11. The filter material in accordance with claim 10, wherein the blend contains
2 polypropylene fibers and acrylic fibers in a ratio between about 40:60 and about 60:40.

1 12. The filter material in accordance with claim 11, wherein the blend contains
2 polypropylene fibers and acrylic fibers in a ratio between about 45:55 and about 55:45.

1 13. The filter material in accordance with claim 12, wherein the blend comprises about
2 50 weight percent polypropylene fibers and about 50 weight percent acrylic fibers.

1 14. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the blend contains
2 polypropylene fibers and modacrylic fibers in a ratio between about 20:80 and about
3 80:20.

1 15. The filter material in accordance with claim 14, wherein the blend contains
2 polypropylene fibers and modacrylic fibers in a ratio between about 30:70 and about
3 70:30.

1 16. The filter material in accordance with claim 15, wherein the blend contains
2 polypropylene fibers and modacrylic fibers in a ratio between about 40:60 and about
3 60:40.

1 17. The filter material in accordance with claim 16, wherein the blend contains
2 polypropylene fibers and modacrylic fibers in a ratio between about 45:55 and about
3 55:45.

1 18. The filter material in accordance with claim 17, wherein the blend comprises about
2 50 weight percent polypropylene fibers and about 50 weight percent modacrylic fibers.

1 19. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the second type of fibers
2 comprises acrylic fibers which are substantially free of extractable agents.

1 20. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the second type of fibers
2 comprises acrylic fibers which contain measurable amounts of at least one extractable
3 agent.

1 21. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the second type of fibers
2 comprises modacrylic fibers which are substantially free of extractable agents.

1 22. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the second type of fibers
2 comprises modacrylic fibers which contain measurable amounts of at least one
3 extractable agent.

1 23. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the polypropylene fibers are
2 not cleaned to remove said at least one extractable agent.

1 24. A filter material comprising a blend of (a) polypropylene fibers, and (b) fibers of a
2 second type with measurable amounts of at least one extractable agent on outer surfaces
3 thereof, said fibers being selected from a group consisting of acrylic and modacrylic.

1 25. The filter material in accordance with claim 21, wherein the polypropylene fibers
2 have measurable amounts of at least one extractable agent on outer surfaces thereof.

- 1 26. A method of filtering particulate from a gas stream, the method comprising:
- 2 (a) blending polypropylene fibers having measurable amounts of at least one
- 3 extractable agent on outer surfaces thereof with fibers of a second type selected
- 4 from a group consisting of acrylic and modacrylic to form a filter material; and
- 5 (b) disposing said filter material in said gas stream without cleaning said at least
- 6 one extractable agent from the outer surfaces of the fibers.